

P O Box 108
Greenville 1450 New Zealand.

23 March 1999

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(HFA-305)

Dockets Management Branch,
US Food and Drug Administration,
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852, USA.

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing & Handling of Food"

To Whom it May Concern:

The FDA should retain the current labelling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated foods for public sale.

Regarding the issue of labelling: in its initial petition, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a material fact about the processing of a food, and thus should be disclosed.

The material fact remains; therefore labelling should remain.

Processing by irradiation causes chemical changes that are not evident and are potentially hazardous.

Meat may have a higher level of carcinogenic benzene. All irradiated foods contain unique radiolytic products that have never been tested.

The use of ionising radiation on foods remains a new technology with no long-term human feeding studies. Consumers certainly have a right to know if this process has been used on their food.

As to the kind of label used, I believe that label should be large enough to be readily visible to the consumer, on the front of the package, containing the term "irradiation" & the radura.

Because of the newness of the technology and the need to assess the public health effects of widespread use of irradiated foods, I believe the original FDA labelling requirement should be used now and in the future. (Current will do; original was better.)

In David MacClement
Box 108
Greenside
N.Z.



Think globally — Act locally

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Recycling labels

